(a) whether it is a fact that the only new acquisition since 2001 has been three squadrons of the SU 30 MKT; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that all other programmes including a deal to purchase 126 fighters and the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) proposal will take another 5 years to fructify before new aircrafts enter services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Induction of various aircraft are underway in addition to the Sukhoi 30 MKI to augment the squadron strength of the IAF. Responses have been received to the Request for Proposal for procurement of the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft and they are under technical evaluation. The acquisition process is on schedule and induction is likely to commence within the Eleventh Plan period. Further, the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft is likely to be inducted from 2010-11 onwards.

Resentment among armed forces against the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission

282. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is resentment among the armed forces against the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Services had submitted a representation to the Government bringing out certain issues arising out of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC). The Government has decided on most of the issues. Subsequently, few more issues have been raised by the Services *viz.* grant of higher grade pay to Service officers, placement of Lt. Col. and equivalent in Pay Band - 4, reinstatement of pensionary weightages for Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR), providing Higher Administrative Grade + Pay Band for Lt. Generals and equivalent holding post of principal Staff Officer, Director Generals, Controllers, etc.

Minister of External Affairs in consultation with the Defence Minister and the Finance Minister has decided on the various issues.

Successful trial of Nag missile

283. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that winter trials of Nag missile has been completed successfully;

(b) if so, the details of Nag's capabilities;

(c) whether the DRDO is set to test this summer for its Summer trials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nag missile is a third generation Anti Tank Guided Missile with "fire and forget" and "top attack" capabilities. Nag missile has a range of 4 Km. and it can engage moving and static targets.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Flight trials are planned to test the Nag missile at a minimum/maximum range.

Erection of war memorial

284. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plans to erect a war memorial in memory of Indian soldiers, who have laid down their lives in various wars since Independence, is lying in cold storage because of lack of a consensus on a suitable site;

(b) whether any time-frame has been set to erect the war memorial; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) A concept plan for National War Memorial has been presented before the regulatory bodies namely, Delhi Urban Arts Commission, the Central Vista Committee and the Heritage Conservation Committee. Ministry of Urban Development has been approached for assignment of suitable land around 'Chhatri' in the India Gate Complex which has not been obtained.

(b) and (c) A time frame can be set only after the land is obtained for the purpose.

Reservation in Armed Forces based on population

285. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has a rule that only a fixed percentage of the population can join the Army from a State and that it is the only Central service in which reservation is based on population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Army Officers are recruited on the basis of merit and recruitment is equally open to every citizen of the country, without discrimination on the basis of population of a State.

Vacancies for recruitment to the Army in respect of Personnel Below Officers' Rank (PBOR) are distributed on the basis of Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of States/UTs. RMP is reckoned as 10% of the total eligible male population of the State/UT based on Census of India Report 2001.

Diversion of ration items meant for Indian Army to black Market

286. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: